

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's rejections will be considered in the order of their occurrence in the Office Action.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action

Claims 1, 3 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore et al (PTO-1449-2 5,651,332) in view of Fife et al (5,000,116).

Claim 1, particularly as amended, requires the limitations of claim 2 and is believed to be in allowable form. Claims 3 and 9, which depend from claim 1, are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 3 and 9 is therefore respectfully requested.

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action states that claims 2, 4-8, 10 and 11 would be allowable if written into independent form with the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The above amendment incorporates the limitations of claim 2 (in its as-filed form) into the recitation of claim 1, and therefore claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 3-6, 8, 9 and 11, by virtue of their dependency from amended claim 1, incorporate the limitations of claim 2 (including the as-filed limitations of claim 1) and therefore it is submitted that claims 3-6, 8, 9 and 11 are also in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 7 and 10 have been cancelled.

Paragraph 4 of the Office Action

Claim 12 is allowed.

New claims added:

New claims 13 through 21 have been added to vary the scope of the claims. All references therein are fully supported in the specification and drawings and no new matter has been added. Specifically, claim 13 includes the limitations of as filed claims 1 and 6 and is believed to be in allowable form. Claim 20 includes the limitations of as filed claims 1 and 4 and is believed to be allowable form.